

Now, your turn.

My friends who are teachers, writers, cops,  
doctors, lawyers, politicians, students.  
Would you curry favor with the authorities?  
How far would you let yourself go  
before drawing up short of incurring their wrath?  
Would you sacrifice your job, your success,  
your wife, your kids, your comfort, your life?  
Would you try to pretend that nothing was happening?  
Would you tell yourself the pendulum would soon swing back  
without any effort or involvement of your own?  
Would you keep looking for the danger from without  
when we had already been taken over from within?

Come to think of it,  
when is the last time,  
in this land of the free and home of the brave,  
that you took a major political risk!

#### THE BLUE NUN AND I

bicycle to las vegas.  
we eat in one of the cheap coffee shops  
in one of the five main downtown hotels.

she has a hot turkey sandwich with the trimmings.  
i have a hot roast beef sandwich with the trimmings.

the bill comes to five bucks.  
her dinner is better than mine.  
we bicycle out to the strip,  
stop in front of caesar's palace.  
"where's joe louis?" she asks.  
"he's dead," i say.

"what lights!" she says;  
"i've never seen so many lights."

"the place is vulgar," i say;  
"it is the apex and the nadir of vulgarity.  
everybody says so.  
i've never heard vegas described by anyone  
with powers of description  
as anything but vulgar."

"it is the city of light,"  
the blue nun says; "the people  
want light -- let them have light."